

15 November; Today nine birders convened for the Sioux Falls Bird Club's November field trip to the wetlands west of town. Even though we found less waterfowl than usual for this time of year, it was a beautiful day to get together and we found at least 39 species.

Dewey Gevik Conservation Area had the highest number of birds of anywhere, where American White Pelicans are still hanging around with half a dozen duck species and a few Great Blue Herons. A flock of ~80 Snow Geese also flew over the area. At Wall Lake we got great views of a pair of Bald Eagles and a very close flyby from a Common Goldeneye.

Grass Lake had one lone Cackling Goose and a few Canvasbacks and Hooded Mergansers. Our final destination, the northeast end of Lake Vermillion, yielded some Purple Finches, American Robins, and a number of uncooperative sparrows. The few that showed themselves well enough to be identified were mostly American Tree Sparrows, with some Harris's Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and a Fox Sparrow.

Thanks to everyone who attended. Our next club activity will be the Sioux Falls Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 20th. A more detailed email about that event will be coming later today or tomorrow.

Chris Anderson
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Today's species list:

Snow Goose
Cackling Goose
Canada Goose
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
Mallard
American Wigeon
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Ring-necked Pheasant
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Ring-billed Gull
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
American White Pelican
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker
Blue Jay
American Crow
European Starling
American Robin
House Sparrow
House Finch
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch
American Tree Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Harris's Sparrow
Western Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle